is saffron in colour. Don't worry about that...(*interruptions*)... I simply asked a question. Just give us an assurance in this House that this process would be over within a stipulated period. Regarding the visit of the committee. I am not on that...(*interruptions*)...

श्री बच्ची सिंह रावत : सभापति जी, मैंने पहले भी माननीय सदस्यों को आश्वस्त किया है कि सितम्बर माह में यह समिति निश्चितरूप से केरल का दौरा करेगी और वहां जाकर वह निरीक्षण करेगी। उसकी जो आख्या, उसकी जो रेकमन्डेशंस होंगी, उनकी जो भी पहली बैठक यूजीसी की होगी उसमें समीक्षा के लिए यह कमेटी प्रस्तुत करेगी और हमारा प्रयास होगा कि मंत्रालय में उस समीक्षा के आने पर, जितनी जल्दी हो, उस पर निर्णय लिया जाए।

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Students are studying there. We want a time-frame.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 463.

Platform at Birur Junction

*463. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the platform at Birur junction railway station has not been raised to suit broad gauge trains;

(b) if so, whether the old people, women and children have to steeply climb down from the train at Platform No. 2 and again to get the Birur-Shimoga passenger train and *vice-versa*; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. All the platforms at Birur are suitable for broad gauge trains.

(b) and (c) Platform No. 1 has been raised to high level in February, 2000. As regards raising of platform nos. 2 and 3, the work has been sanctioned and will be taken up shortly.

SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Railways took up the gauge conversion during 1991—96 in Karnataka; and completed it very fast. But, unfortunately, the Railways did not think of providing platforms and

necessary amenities. These have been left out. Even today at many railway stations, passengers are not able to embark on the railway bogies. At some railway stations, they have provided ladders just like Indian Airlines provides ladders, when we embark on an aircraft. Whenever a train arrives at a station, the passengers disembark from the train with the help of a ladder. The Minister himself has admitted that the Birur Junction is an important junction. Some trains may be going towards Shimoga and Hubli. So, passengers will get down at Birur. They are facing a lot of problems on platform No. 2. I have specifically mentioned the problem of platform No. 2. But the Minister has answered saying that all the platforms are suitable for broad-guage. Even in reply to parts (b) & (c) of the question, the hon. Minister has informed that platform Nos. 2 and 3 are being taken up. I want a specific reply from the Minister as to the time-frame. When will these platforms be completed? If you have fixed a time-frame, please inform the House as to when it will be completed.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It will be completed within this financial year.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Sir, this conversion of metre-gauge to broad-gauge from Bangalore to Miraj was completed four years back. Hubli is my home town and that is the second largest city in Karnataka; thousands of passengers get down there. But there is no platform raised, after the conversion into broad-gauge. I am personally interested. I come from that place. It is my constituency. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when it will be done.

श्री नीतीश कुमार: सभापति महोदय, बोम्मई साहब तो हमारे अध्यक्ष रहे हैं। पहले कह दिये होते तो हम इसके बारे में जानकारी लेकर आते। वैसे जब उन्होंने सवाल रेज़ किया है तो मैं जरूर इस मामले को देखूंगा।

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सभापति महोदय, रेलगाड़ियों के डिब्बे बढ़ा दिये गये। गेज परिवर्तन हो गया तो कई स्टेशनों की स्थिति बहुत दयनीय हो गई।...(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: यह बिरुर का सवाल है।...(व्यवधान)

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: स्टेशनों की बात है, प्लेटफार्म की बात है। जनरल बात है, मैं एक स्टेशन की बात नहीं कर रहा हूं, मैं जनरल बात बता रहा हूं कि प्लेटफार्म बढ़ाने के लिए, जो कम पड़ गये हैं, सरकार क्या कर रही है।...(व्यवधान)

श्री नीतीश कुमार: सर, जो प्लेटफार्म छोटे हो गये हैं...(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: प्लेटफार्म का नहीं है, बिरुर के प्लेटफार्म का है। This question does not arise out of the main question. It is a specific question.